Tourism projects at Chamundi Hills

1702. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) when did the work on the ropeway to Chamundi Hills begin;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Single Window Agency had approved the ropeway project to a private firm called SIKKA in 1994;

(c) the reasons for the delay in beginning the project;

(d) the amount Government have sanctioned for the project; and

(e) by when the work on the development of Tourism Park will be commenced at the foot of the Chamundi Hills on 50 acres of land which has already been acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No project proposal for ropeway to Chamundi Hills in the State of Karnataka has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Yes, Sir, by the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) The State Government of Karnataka has intimated that there was delay in getting clearances from Forest Department, Pollution Control Board and obtaining land from Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

(d) The State Government has informed that they have not sanctioned any funds. The State Government through the Single Window Agency will only facilitate setting up of the project.

(e) The State Tourism Department has not acquired any land for establishment of Tourism Park. The land which has been identified for development of Tourism Park belongs to the Forest Department.

New projects on rural life

1703. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned 55 projects to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage; and